

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 12:36 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** yamaguchd009@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dennis Yamaguchi | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments:

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**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 7:28 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** justpeachy242@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fawn Liebengood | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: We need to protect our marine resources. Not needlessly kill the beautiful important animals that fill our oceans.

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**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** oesim@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| glenn fukuda | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: very difficult to enforce let alone inform

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:40 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** tbohl8@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ted Bohlen   | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Sharks and rays and their ecosystems need the protections of this bill.  
Please pass it. Mahalo!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 8:50 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dylan Armstrong | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 6:17 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** oot@howardhall.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Michele      | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: I support.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2016 6:29 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mmmmahalo2000@aol.com  
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**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mike Moran   | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Worldwide headlines scream "shark attack," but not a back page line as sharks are getting wiped out worldwide. We can make a difference right here to set the example. Please support. Mahalo, Mike Moran Maui

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Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
Tel/Fax (808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Re: HB 1734 RELATING TO MARINE LIFE PROTECTION.

Creates administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark or ray within state marine waters. Provides exemptions for native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices, research purposes, and public and personal safety.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, PROVIDED THE BILL IS AMENDED TO ENSURE RACIAL EQUALITY

HB1734 provides good reasons why sharks and rays should be protected.

SECTION 2(e)(1) provides a procedure for obtaining a special activity permit that would allow animals to be taken. Subsections 2(e)(2),(3),(4),(5) identify circumstances when animals could be taken even without a special activity permit.

Subsections (3),(4),(5) are commonsense circumstances applicable to all people regardless of race, when a shark can be captured, killed, or taken to protect public safety, or when it is outside State marine waters, or when a person is engaged in defending himself or someone else against an attack by a shark.

However subsection (2) seems to provide a permanent and general racial exemption from this regulation for anyone with a drop of Hawaiian native blood, and seems not to provide the same exemption for anyone lacking a drop of Hawaiian native blood.

There is no good reason to make the exemption racial. The exemption should be based on preservation of historic skills or ongoing cultural uses, regardless of race.

Either subsection (2) should be deleted from this bill, or else it should be reworded to broaden it so that all persons regardless of race can capture, kill, or take a shark for purposes of engaging in traditional and customary cultural practices for personal or instructional use but not commercial use. Examples of acceptable circumstances for automatic exemption would include harvesting sharkskin for making a drum, or harvesting shark teeth to make an ornament for personal adornment or a replica of an ancient weapon for use in museum displays or school lessons.

The same comments apply to SECTION 3(e)(2)



**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testmony Submitted to the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9 am  
Conference Room 325

In Support for HB 1734 Relating Marine Life Protection

Chair Ing, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1734, which creates administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark or ray within state marine waters; and provides exemptions for native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices, research purposes, and public and personal safety.

We agree with the following points made by the Humane Society of the United States regarding sharks in support of HB 1339 last session:

- In 2010, Hawai'i became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, which has now become a global initiative, by again poising Hawai'i to be a leader in shark and marine conservation.
- More than 70 million sharks killed annually for their fins. While legal protection helps increase shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction.
- Recent research from the University of Hawai'i has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui. While this measure does not preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawai'i state waters (out to 3 nm), prohibiting take within state waters could protect potentially thousands of sharks.
- There have been numerous incidents, one on the Big Island at Honokohau Harbor in which sharks were harassed and harmed for no purpose other than cruel enjoyment.
- This bill would not apply to those who unintentionally capture shark while fishing for other species and only applies to intentional take and landing. Responsible fishers release sharks that may be accidentally caught as by-catch. This bill would reinforce that responsible and pono fishing practices.

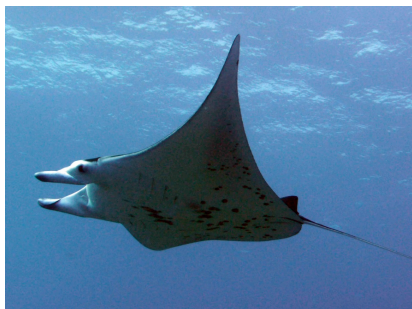
Sharks and manta rays are part of our rich natural and cultural heritage in Hawai'i. Please support HB 1734.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka

Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



omhtestimony

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From: Laurie Pottish <pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:49 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734

I SUPPORT HB1734.

Laurie Pottish  
2892 iwalani St.  
Makawao, Hi 96768

omhtestimony

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From: Rosemary Karlsson <rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com>  
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 10:39 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734 - SUPPORT for sharks & rays

Please support HB1734. The ocean belongs to the sharks and rays, humans are just visitors who should not cause any harm.

Rosemary Karlsson  
PO Box 492266  
Keaau, HI 96749

808-966-6589

Physical address: 16-1885 Uilani Drive, Keaau.



omhtestimony

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From: Diana Crow <yayah@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:04 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks & rays

SUPPORT HB1734; Protect sharks & rays

omhtestimony

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From: Jennifer Chiwa <bjcmd808@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:32 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: 2-10-16, 10:00 am SUPPORT HB 1734

Aloha Members of the Ocean and Marine Resources Committee,

Please support HB 1734 to protect sharks. Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

omhtestimony

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From: Jeanne Duberstein <duberstem001@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 9:20 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB 1734

I strongly support this bill for protection of our valued marine life. Jeanne Duberstein, Kihei

omhtestimony

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From: Michele Westmorland <michele@westmorlandimages.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:24 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734 Sharks & Rays

I'm writing to support the above mentioned bill to create penalties for unlawfully killing a shark or ray in state waters. As a marinelife photographer who has spent 30 years exploring the oceans and seas, I have seen the reduction in the numbers of these necessary species that keep a balance in the oceans and seas. Most of the killing is to fill the shark fin trade, which is a deplorable use of these animals. The very existence of sharks and rays and their numbers have plummeted over the year. There is no reason to take sharks and rays and those who do should be penalized for their actions.

Regards,  
Michele Westmorland

Photographer, Director  
425-896-8113



[www.westmorlandimages.com](http://www.westmorlandimages.com)

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omhtestimony

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From: Michael Roberts <reeflections.maui@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:21 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks & rays

Please support this bill. I do.  
Michael Roberts  
Lahaina

omhtestimony

---

From: M Markl <ahimsam9@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 10:14 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734

There have been way too many sharks killed for frivolous reasons, please protect them and the rays.

omhtestimony

---

From: Sue Leonard <sl600sl@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:40 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734

**Support HB1734**

Sue Leonard  
1425 Liliha Street #11D  
Honolulu, HI 96817

310-344-8282

omhtestimony

---

From: Jerry Derrick <godivemaui@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 8:42 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734

I SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks & rays

*Aloha, Jer*

[808 357 1527](tel:8083571527)

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*Premier Scuba*

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:21 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** tampaltin@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tamara Paltin | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** rkailianu57@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By       | Organization       | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rachel L. Kailianu | Ho`omana Pono, LLC | Support            | Yes                |

**Comments:**

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1734  
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION**

House Bill 1734 proposes to establish penalties and fines for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark or ray within state marine waters and makes it a misdemeanor. This measure provides exemptions for native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices, special activity permits, research purposes, and public safety. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (“Department”) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department prefers to establish regulations through the administrative rulemaking process in order to evaluate the available science, give due consideration to all interests, and to carefully craft language to avoid conflicting with existing state and federal laws. For example, regulations are in place in West Hawaii to regulate the take of sharks under Section 13-60.4-4(1), Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Sharks and rays should be evaluated separately, as they are different species with different roles in the ecosystem and facing different conditions and threats. The Department recognizes the important role sharks and other apex predators play in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, and the detrimental impact from significantly depleting their populations in our waters. Similarly, rays play a unique role in the marine environment and should be reviewed in that context.

Regarding the penalties, we note the bill proposes higher penalties than what exists for other violations in this chapter. We believe this is unnecessary in light of our existing criminal and civil penalty authorities. In 1999, the Department’s Division of Aquatic Resources went through a review of its criminal penalty statutes and revised them after consulting with the Department of the

Attorney General and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. This review standardized most criminal penalties as petty misdemeanors to ease prosecution.

Also, in 1998, the Legislature established administrative penalties for aquatic resource violations. Violators face up to \$1,000 per violation and an additional \$1,000 per specimen for a first offense. Repeat violators are subject to even higher fines. In 2004, the Department implemented a civil resource violations system (CRVS), as authorized under Chapter 199D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to deal with violations through an internal administrative process rather than the criminal court process. This system, which utilizes a civil penalty schedule carefully developed based on resource value and the nature of the violation, has worked well, and we are looking to expand the scope of CRVS within the Department.

In summary, we believe our administrative rulemaking process and the existing suite of criminal and administrative penalties is more than sufficient to give us the flexibility to regulate these resources appropriately.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:41 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** SHIRAIJRT001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By       | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| THOMAS T SHIRAI JR | Individual   | Support            | Yes                |

Comments: Aloha Chair Ing & Cmte, I support HB 1734 (Relating to Marine life Protection). Sharks and Rays have sensitive standing within Hawaiian Culture and viewed as Aumakua and/or Ohana. Therefore prison time is warranted rather than just a misdemeanor along with monetary fines and confiscating equipment pertaining to activities such as poaching. Regarding Cultural Practice, a permit process with monetary fee should be implemented within the DLNR. In our era it's necessary to implement these suggestions to amend this bill for protection and future generations. Thank you for your time. Malama Pono

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:25 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** dean@HawaiiGoesFishing.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization        | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dean Sensui  | Hawaii Goes Fishing | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: I oppose this bill for the following reasons: The management of our fisheries has to be conducted through the administrative rulemaking process. Fishing regulations must be based upon sound scientific studies, and not emotionally driven. And sharks aren't a targeted fish in Hawaii and they are not at risk. While sharks are sometimes hooked as bycatch, and could be injured during the process of releasing them, they're generally not sought for food or as a gamefish. Should a fisherman unintentionally injure or kill one, that person would be unfairly subject to unreasonable prosecution, being forced to prove innocence in the face of stiff penalties that would include expensive fines and the loss of fishing gear which a family may depend upon to supplement their food supply. Fishing has been an important part of Hawaii's culture. It's one of the ways many local families help feed themselves. Let's not create laws that would cause our fishermen unfair hardship. And if such rules are deemed necessary, let's leave that up to our Division of Aquatic Resources which has the knowledge to determine what needs to be done. Aloha, Dean Sensui, Hawaii Goes Fishing.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:31 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** wekeis333@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tony Sylvester | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: Rep. Kaniela Ing, Chair Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair, Committee Members, Fishery management and catch limits should be adjusted through the administrative process of the department involving all stakeholders and not through Legislation. Mahalo, Tony Sylvester

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**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** octopus@maui.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rene Umberger | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

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**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** hawaiihuntingassociation@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tom Lodge    | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: This action provides for no science as it pertains to HAWAIIAN WATERS. This action is superfluous as well since Hawaii already has a ban on "FINNING". This bill will also provide a burdensome intrusion into normal fishing activities in that fish (sharks) are many times caught inadvertently and would leave one with explanation unnecessarily. Lastly, people eat sharks, so you would be removing a nutritional resource from the table. Please Scrub this bill! It is unnecessary, burdensome, comes to the table with absolutely NO SCIENCE TO SUPPORT IT. OPPOSE! Much Aloha, Tom Lodge

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 5:07 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By  | Organization          | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support            | Yes                |

Comments: This is so important for the health of our oceans, aloha for the animals and for the compassion for all animals.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:27 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** GerritOsborne@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gerrit B Osborne | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Of all the animal-related bills before the State Legislature this year, none is more important than the bill to protect sharks and rays. These magnificent creatures have been in our oceans for millions of years, yet, with an estimated 100 million sharks killed annually just for their fins (not to mentioned the uncounted millions that die as the result of "by-catch"), many species of shark will have disappeared within the next decade. Please pass HB 1734 and ensure that it is vigorously enforced. An excellent reference on the subject is at <http://www.sharkwater.com/index.php/shark-education/>

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omhtestimony

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From: Mary James <felinitous@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 7:47 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734 Feb 10 hearing

I support this important bill to protect sharks from senseless killing. They are an important part of the Ocean environment which would deteriorate without them.

Mary James



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES



**HUMANE SOCIETY**  
INTERNATIONAL



CENTER for  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY  
*Because life is good.*



**TO: Honorable Chair Ing and Committee Members  
House Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
February 10, 2016, 9am**

**FROM: Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the  
United States, [igibson@humanesociety.org](mailto:igibson@humanesociety.org), 808.354.3211**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR HB1734 with amendments; Relating to Shark and Ray Protections**

On behalf of Wild Aid, The Manta Trust, Shark Stewards, the Center for Biological Diversity, The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International's members and supporters across Hawaii and The HSUS's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), we urge your support of HB1734 which would prohibit the capture or killing of sharks or rays in state waters (within 3 nm) except for research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, the use of shark parts/products for native Hawaiian cultural purposes and at the discretion of DLNR for specific, emergency public safety reasons.

**Why sharks need protection:**

- In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, which has now become a global initiative, by again poising Hawaii to be a leader in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the capture or killing of sharks.
- Tens of millions of sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While anti-finning laws have improved shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction. Recent research from the University of Hawaii has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui, and are faced with numerous threats most notably humans and pollution (SEE: [Hawaii Scientists Study Threatened Shark Species](#))
- There is no directed commercial shark fishery in Hawaii waters so this would not be expected to have a negative economic impact on commercial fishing interests. Commercial fisheries operating in federal waters reported catching 85,067 sharks and releasing 84,441 of them (SEE: [http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport\\_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1](http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1))

This measure does NOT preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).

- With the growing number of interactions between ocean users and sharks this measure would prevent consideration of ineffective mass culling efforts and those individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation (see: [Local Shark Experts Explain Shark Attacks](#) )
- Sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. In addition, sharks and rays are not a staple human food source as other fish species are. Below is a list of the 40 species of sharks that may be found in Hawaii waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of shark thus this measure applies to all sharks.

### **Why Rays need protection:**

Current law prohibits the take of *only* Manta Ray species. This measure would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagleray. Manta alfredi (reef mantas) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).

- With the growing interest and number of commercial tour operators involved in ray diving tours this measure would further protect all of these species.
- While the trade has not yet hit Hawaii, China and other countries have begun mass harvesting of rays for their gills/gill soup, especially since shark populations are still facing serious decline and many states and island nations now prohibit selling shark fin products. This measure would prevent any future trade in harvesting Hawaii rays as we saw recently with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers by international companies (DLNR recently prohibited commercial harvest of sea cucumbers).
- Rays are known to be among the slowest marine species to reproduce. For example, new data on manta ray reproduction suggest that they may reproduce even more slowly than previously believed, with a *maximum lifetime reproduction potential estimated at only 5 to 15 offspring* . Such extremely low reproductive capacity shows that manta and mobula rays are far more vulnerable to exploitation than previously known, and that immediate investment in their conservation is necessary to avoid continued rapid declines (SEE: <http://www.wildaid.org/mantas> )

### **Suggested amendments:**

- 1) Page 4, line 14, strike Selachimorpha and define as any species of *Elasmobranchii* (j) For the purposes of this section, "shark" means any species of ~~Selachimorpha~~. *Elasmobranchii*"
- 2) Page 6, line 16, strike Myliobatidae and define as any species of *Elasmobranchii* (f) For the purposes of this section, "ray" means any species of ~~Myliobatidae~~, including ~~Torpediniformes~~ and ~~Chimaera~~ *Elasmobranchii* "
- 3) Add severability clause

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue.

**Hawaii Shark and Ray Species List:** <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/sharks/hawaii-sharks/species-list/>

### **Sharks**

#### **Order Orectolobiformes**

#### **Family Rhincodontidae**

Whale shark, *Rhincodon typus*, VU

## **Order Carcharhiniformes**

### **Family Scyliorhinidae**

Sponge-headed cat shark, *Apristurus spongiceps*, DD

### **Family Pseudotriakidae**

False cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, DD

### **Family Carcharhinidae**

Bignose shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*, DD

Gray reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, NT

Silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformes*, NT

Galapagos shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, NT

Blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, NT

Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, VU

Blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, NT

Sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, VU

Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, NT

Blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, NT

Whitetip reef shark, *Triaenodon obesus*, NT

### **Family Sphyrnidae**

Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, EN

Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*, VU

## **Order Lamniformes**

### **Family Odontaspidae**

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU

Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

### **Family Pseudocarchariidae**

Crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*, NT

### **Family Megachasmidae**

Megamouth shark, *Megachasma pelagios*, DD

### **Family Alopiidae**

Pelagic thresher shark, *Alopias pelagicus*, VU

Bigeye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*, VU

### **Family Lamnidae**

White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, VU

Short-finned mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, VU

Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*, VU

## **Order Hexanchiformes**

### **Family Hexanchidae**

Frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, NT

Bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*, NT

## **Order Squaliformes**

### **Family Echinorhinidae**

Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

### **Family Dalatiidae**

Combtooth dogfish, *Centroscyllium nigrum*, DD

Kitefin shark, *Dalatias licha*, NT

Blurred smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*, LC

Blackbelly lantern shark, *Etmopterus lucifer*, LC

Smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus pusillus*, LC

Hawaiian lantern shark, *Etmopterus villosus*, LC

Pygmy shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, LC

Cookiecutter shark, *Isistius brasiliensis*, LC

Viper dogfish, *Trigonognathus kabeyai*, DD

Velvet dogfish, *Scymnodon squamulosus*, DD

#### **Family Centrophoridae**

Mosaic gulper shark, *Centrophorus tessellatus*, DD

Gulper shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*, VU

#### **Family Squalidae**

Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

#### **Rays**

#### **Order Torpediniformes**

##### **Family Torpedinidae**

Torpedo ray, *Torpedo sp.*, DD or LC, depending on species

#### **Order Myliobatiformes**

##### **Family Plesiobatidae**

Giant stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, LC

##### **Family Hexatrygonidae**

Sixgill stingray, *Hexatrygon bickelli*, LC

Longnosed deepwater ray, *Hexatrygon longirostra*, IUCN uncertain whether separate species

##### **Family Dasyatidae**

Diamond stingray, *Dasyatis dipterura*, DD

Brown stingray, *Dasyatis lata*, LC

Pelagic stingray, *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, LC

##### **Family Myliobatidae**

Spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, NT

##### **Family Mobulidae**

Manta ray, *Manta birostris*, VU

Spinetail devil ray, *Mobula japanica*, NT



omhtestimony

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From: Ginger Towle <towle@hawaiiantel.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:38 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Cc: Inga Gibson  
Subject: HB1734 Ocean, Marine Resources Comm. SUPPORT

To- Chairman Ing - Ocean, Marine Resources Committee

HB-1734

Subject - Protection of Sharks and Rays

To be head February 10, 2016 at 10a.m.

Chairman Ing and Committee

It has been well established that sharks are necessary for the health and of our ocean ecosystems. We have established laws covering shark finning and we need to put some teeth in these laws by adding penalties for the unlawfully killing of any shark or ray in state waters.

There are exceptions for special permits and cultural practices.

However, again it is up to all of us to protect our home environment.

Please support this bill, it is the very least we can do as humane and responsible people.

Thank you for your attention to this very critical issue.

Ginger Towle - President  
West Hawaii Humane Society  
Box 1208  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745  
towle@hawaiiantel.net  
808-329-2051



**National Headquarters**

1130 17th Street, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20036-4604 | tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

**DATE:** February 9, 2016

**TO:** Honorable Chair Ing and Committee Members, House Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

**FROM:** Rosa Indenbaum, International Policy Analyst, Defenders of Wildlife,  
[rindenbaum@defenders.org](mailto:rindenbaum@defenders.org)

**RE:** Support for HB 1734; Relation to Shark and Ray Protections

Dear Hon. Chair Ing and Committee Members,

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, I write to urge you to support HB 1734, a measure that would prohibit knowingly capturing, killing or taking sharks or rays within the state waters of Hawaii. Reasonable exceptions for research, special permitted activity, use in native Hawaiian cultural practices and public safety reasons would exist. This measure would provide greatly needed comprehensive protection for more than 40 species of sharks and rays that are known to frequent the state waters of Hawaii and still suffer from knowing capture, kill and take. I urge Representatives to support this bill with a change to the definition of “shark” in Section 2(j) to refer to any species of shark within the sub-class “*elasmobranchii*” and the definition of “ray” in Section 3(f) to refer to any species of ray within the sub-class “*elasmobranchii*” excepting manta rays already covered under HRS 188-39.5.

Since 2000, anyone under U.S. jurisdiction has been prohibited from shark finning. In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to enact a prohibition on the sale of shark fins and fin products. In January of 2011, the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 was signed in to law, requiring that all sharks have their fins naturally attached when landed. Now, Hawaii has the opportunity to continue its role as a leader in U.S. marine conservation by closing one of the remaining loopholes in federal and state shark and ray conservation law: prohibiting the knowing capture, kill and take of sharks and rays altogether within Hawaii state waters. Shark and ray conservation needs to go beyond finning and prohibitions on the sale of products. True conservation efforts require the protection of sharks and rays from all negative human impact, including fishing, such as is proposed by HB 1734.

Many species of shark are known to be found in the state waters of Hawaii, including whale sharks, cat sharks, reef sharks, silky sharks, oceanic water tip sharks, tiger sharks, hammerhead sharks, thresher sharks, and mako sharks, among others. Additionally, multiple species of rays frequent Hawaiian waters, including stingrays, eagle rays, devil rays and mantas rays.<sup>1</sup> With the exception of manta rays, none of the above listed species, nor any other species of the subclass *elasmobranchii* (sharks, rays and skates), currently enjoy protection from knowing capture, kill or take in state waters under Hawaiian law. Furthermore, because shark and ray species can be difficult to identify, this measure, with the proposed changes to the definition of “shark” and “ray,” would avoid potential enforcement issues by including all shark and ray species that have been or may be found in

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<sup>1</sup> Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Sharks, Species list for Hawaiian waters.

Hawaiian waters. The proposed measures, HB 1734, would offer greatly needed protection to many sharks and rays without confusion.

Unfortunately, despite growing international, nation and state-level protection for sharks and rays, a fourth of all shark and ray species are still threatened with extinction.<sup>2</sup> Although the largest impact on sharks and rays likely stems from intentional catch for the fin and gill raker trade and bycatch in commercial fisheries, intentional and knowing take still occurs in Hawaii in the form of sport hunting and spearfishing, among other activities. This measure would eliminate the impact of such knowing capture, kill and take of sharks and rays, with an exception for native Hawaiian cultural practices. As sharks and rays are among the slowest reproducing species, reducing the negative impact on their populations is extremely vital to their recovery and survival.

By passing this measure, Hawaii would be the first U.S. state to ban shark and ray fishing. The concept of a ban on shark fishing has been gathering momentum since Israel prohibited the fishing of all sharks and rays in 1980. Since that time, another 16 countries and territories have implemented various bans on shark and ray fishing.<sup>3</sup> Using this measure, with the proposed changes in definitions, Hawaii could take the first step for the United States towards a comprehensive national ban on shark and ray fishing that reflect the broad level of conservation needed for these species. On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, I urge you to support HB 1734.

Sincerely,  
Rosa Indenbaum  
International Policy Analyst  
Defenders of Wildlife  
[rindenbaum@defenders.org](mailto:rindenbaum@defenders.org)

Suggested Amendments:

- 1) Section 2(j), Page 4, line 13: “(j) For the purposes of this section, “shark” means any species of ~~Selachimorpha~~ shark in the sub-class *Elasmobranchii*.”
- 2) Section 3(f), Page 6, line 15: “(f) For the purposes of this section, “ray” means any species of ~~Myliobitidae, including Torpediniformes and Chimaera~~ ray in the sub-class *Elasmobranchii*.”

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<sup>2</sup> IUCN, *Extinction risk and conservation of the world’s sharks and rays*, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Humane Society International, *National Laws, multi-lateral agreements, regional and global regulations on shark protection and shark finning*, last updated March 2014.

omhtestimony

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From: Caprice Arenas <arenascaprice@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:00 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

I am writing to you on behalf of sharks and rays living on this earth and in Hawaii ... I totally agree that the fishing or killing of sharks needs to be stopped ! the amount of sharks lives that are taken from the ocean is outrageous! It is predicted that by 2043 the ocean will be empty if sea animals , especially sharks , keep being hunted . Sharks are the main stabilizers in the marine ecosystem and also play a major role in the ecological system ... What good is it going to do if the population of sharks is decreasing day by day year by year !! People see sharks as a threat when really the truth is we or rather the people fishing for sharks are the threat .

I hope this was enough ' speech ' to hopefully BAN shark fishing in Hawaii . I fully support this matter .

Yours sincerely ,  
caprice arenas

omhtestimony

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From: Caralyn <cvasquez1984@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:08 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 sharks and rays

**Please save and protect our sharks and rays! They are vital to the balance of our oceans and bays.**

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

omhtestimony

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From: Ashley Guzman <ashl3ysemail@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:00 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

Hello,

I'm writing this on the behalf of my support HB1734. After taking many marine courses at UH here in Hawaii I've learned how important these animals are to not only our oceans and reefs, but also Hawaiian culture. There should be laws in place to help protect these creatures.

Thank you for your time.

Ashley Guzman

omhtestimony

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From: craiggabrielson@gmail.com  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 2:25 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

To whom it may concern,

It makes me so happy to see the progression of protection for animals that desperately need it. Sharks have suffered such a bad reputation over the last few decades and numbers have suffered along with it. The ocean needs sharks for a healthy ecosystem and we need a healthy ocean for our survival. Bills like this are exactly the direction we need to go and I will gladly support it. Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Gabrielson

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

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From: John Donovan <johndonovan3@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:30 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734 Sharks and Rays

Hello:

I am writing concerning the above mentioned bill up for consideration in your State Legislature. I have visited your beautiful State twice and have always been astounded by it's natural beauty. Sharks and Rays play a pivotal role in our ecosystem. Allowing them to be targeted and further endangering them will cause irreversible, long-term damage. Please use your voting power to prevent this from happening.

Thank you,  
John Donovan  
Hawaii Tourist



omhtestimony

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From: John Donovan <johndonovan3@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:30 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734 Sharks and Rays

Hello:

I am writing concerning the above mentioned bill up for consideration in your State Legislature. I have visited your beautiful State twice and have always been astounded by it's natural beauty. Sharks and Rays play a pivotal role in our ecosystem. Allowing them to be targeted and further endangering them will cause irreversible, long-term damage. Please use your voting power to prevent this from happening.

Thank you,  
John Donovan  
Hawaii Tourist

omhtestimony

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From: Beth Parent <bethparent@me.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:41 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734;Sharks and rays

Dear friends;

Please pass a law to ban shark fishing in Hawaii. I have been in the waters off Oahu and been snorkeling with these beautiful and peaceful creatures. It frightens me that the shark population is declining so rapidly.

Sharks are the white blood cells of the ocean. They help keep the delicate balance of our oceans' Eco system. Without them our oceans will be unhealthy and unhealthy oceans equal unhealthy humans.

A live shark is worth far more to Hawaii than a dead shark. Eco tourism is a great way for Hawaii to capitalize on a shark protection program. It would help the shark population and put money back into hawaii's economy.

Please consider these things as you vote. I believe in a healthy ocean with sharks and rays in it.

Thank you,  
Beth Parent

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:34 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** wwmsteiner@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By       | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| William W. Steiner | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                 |

Comments: This testimony is to support HB1734 of no take in Hawaiian waters of sharks and rays with the exception of subsistence fishing. Thousands of these top predators are removed from the sea every year either accidentally or through direct fishing action drastically removing their ecologically balancing effect. Protecting them leads to a more sustainable Hawaiian fishery.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:31 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** maryferrigno@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Ferrigno | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Hello, I support H.B. 1734 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays. Healthy populations of sharks and rays are crucial to a vibrant marine ecosystem that can maintain sustainable tourism and fishing industries.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:46 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** babesagainstbiotech@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization          | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nomi Carmona | Babes Against Biotech | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:30 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** donjb11@me.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Don Blanchard | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                 |

Comments: I would like to lend my support to HB 1734. We recently spent 2 weeks in Hawaii and traveled to the islands specifically to do a open water trip with One Ocean Diving as part of their shark conservation program. This trip gave me a new appreciation to the critical importance of sharks and rays in the greater ocean ecosystem. They not only are critical to a healthy reef and ocean system but are valuable to the economy of Hawaii and based on our trip are providing support to a variety of jobs on the islands. Please vote to support this important bill. Thanks for your consideration. Sincerely, Don Blanchard Sammamish, WA.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:18 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** hokuokekai50@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Lacques | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:19 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** makani.christensen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| makani       | Citizen      | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: -Sharks are a part of the Food Chain. -Increased amount of competition between fishermen and sharks. -No science to support the law. -It is necessary to manage sharks stocks. Balance in the ecosystem. -According to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Sharks are not overfished. -This law will make criminals of fishermen who inadvertently capture and kill sharks.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:02 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

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**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dylan Armstrong | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:52 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** matt.htfa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Matthew Ross | Individual   | Oppose             | Yes                |

Comments: I am opposed to this measure. Sharks in Hawaii are not overfished, and while reasonable conservation measures are a good thing, a complete ban on any capture of sharks goes too far. Please do not pass this bill.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:57 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** adri.naranjo25@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| adriana naranjo | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Aloha Chairs & Committee Members, I Adriana Naranjo, strongly support bill HB1734 for a number of reasons. First, sharks and rays are crucial to marine ecosystems due to the fact that they are apex predators, this means they help maintain fish populations healthy and in balance. Second, they provide big economic benefits in terms of tourism; nowadays multiple scientific studies have shown that the economic value of a life shark/ray outweighs the value of a dead shark/ray. Third, sharks form an important part of the Hawaiian culture since they are considered "aumakua" or family gods. Sharks and rays in comparison to other commercial fish species, are long lived and slow growing which makes them a lot more vulnerable to fishing pressures. Furthermore, they reproduce at a very advanced age and have very few offsprings. Sharks' and rays' populations have declined by 90% therefore it is crucial to protect these species in order to avoid their extinction and the collapse of marine ecosystems. I thank you for the opportunity of letting me submit my testimony and I really hope you can stand out and speak for those who can't speak. By protecting these species we are protecting our future, our children's future, and the future of our planet Earth.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 6:24 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** vanderso@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Victoria Anderson | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Please pass this bill to prevent needless killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii State waters. Hawaii was the first state to ban shark-finning, and we need to strengthen and continue our leadership in protecting these animals who are critical to the health of our ecosystems. Mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:24 PM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** reefour@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kathy Takahashi | Individual   | Oppose             | No                 |

Comments: -No science to support the law. -It is necessary to manage sharks stocks. Balance in the ecosystem. -According to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Sharks are not overfished. -This law will make criminals of fishermen who inadvertently capture and kill sharks.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:58 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** gregorynielson@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gregory Nielson | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:04 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** evernw@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Evern Williams | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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From: Tracy <tracyam@hawaii.edu>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:54 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks & rays



Aloha,

I am writing in concern for not only the future of our sharks and rays, but for the future of the oceans as a whole, and therefore our own future as well. Sharks have been studied for years and have shown significant signs that without them, there are marine ecosystem collapses. In a large study off the east coast of the United States by Ransom Myers showed that the loss of shark populations lead to the over population of cownose rays, who then destroyed the scallop population, causing fisheries to shut down. The ocean here in Hawai'i is already victim to overfishing and pollution, making what was once a thriving ecosystem, vastly wiped out. As an apex predator, sharks are the leader in trophic cascades, where losing the top of the food chain causes a snowball reaction that will destroy the balance. Sharks are not only important to the health of our ecosystems, but are not safe to consume. The EPA states that a safe amount of mercury in a diet is 0.1 micrograms per kilogram of body weight. Sharks can carry levels up to 4000 micrograms per kilogram of their weight. This means consuming even a 4oz serving of shark meat will have the person at 67 times the recommended amount from the EPA. This is poisoning the people who consume it, and the selling of it is slowly killing the consumers and unborn children who have no say in what goes into their body.

If you do not want to look at this situation from a conservative side, or for health reasons, then take a look at the economical values of sharks. Killing them and selling them could bring in money, but once the sharks are gone, how will those fishermen continue to support themselves? Embracing the ecotourism aspect, we not only support the future of sharks, but the future of the business who depend on the sharks to be around to continue to generate economical value to their community. It is widely known that shark ecotourism is going to nearly double in the next few years, but if instead those sharks are killed, there will be no ecotourism, and no sharks to fish. Creating an environment where both sharks and humans win is the most sustainable answer to healthy ecosystems, and a healthy economy. Hawaii is known for it's gorgeous waters and beaches, people come by the millions to enjoy the water and snorkel/scuba dive/cage dive/see whales/dolphins/turtles, the list goes on. Allowing that resource to be destroyed is only securing the destruction of tourism, which supports so much of Hawaii's economy.

The history of Hawaii even respects and appreciates these creatures. From traditional practices, to certain sharks being a family's 'aumakua, and stories of their powerful beings. Continuing to kill sharks and rays is a disgrace to what was once cherished in our seas. We must act now to protect these creatures and support the health of our beloved oceans. Please support this bill and in turn support our oceans and his beautiful place we are lucky to call home.

Aloha,  
Tracy Mullen



omhtestimony

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From: Mike Nakachi <mikenakachi@hawaii.rr.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:12 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: HB1734



Aloha Chair Ing,

I am in Full Support of HB1734 as I have testified in person last year on these Bills. Mano, Hihimanu & Hahalua are all very important Alii's of the sea and they belong in the Moana! Nuff said!

Mahalo for your introduction of this Bill. Malama Mano, Mike

Mike Nakachi  
Moana Ohana  
mikenakachi@hawaii.rr.com  
cell 808-640-3871

omhtestimony

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From: R Mc <rmcinz@aol.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 5:26 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734; Sharks and Rays

The killing of sharks is both unnecessary and dangerous to our oceans. Without sharks our oceans will suffer, they can not exist without sharks.

Sent from my iPhone

**LATE**

omhtestimony

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From: Sunny Yang <sunny9213@rogers.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:10 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Sunny and I am a MBA student in Hospitality originally from Canada. In the past, I have visited Hawaii three times it has remained my favorite destinations in the world. I love Hawaii for the connection I have with your people, culture, and marine life.

I am writing to you in support of the bill to protect sharks and rays within the Hawaiian state marine waters. We are people of the earth and since our existence, we have brought many impacts to mother nature. While changes in the earth and sea are inevitable in some ways, we have the obligation to conserve and protect all that remains for simply, the longevity of our planet and its living beings.

Change is difficult and I understand that. This bill would be a strong step towards a more positive future.

Kindest Regards,

Sunny

From: Kaikea Nakachi <knakachi2011@my.fit.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:09 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734



Aloha Chair Ing's Ocean.

My name is Kaikea Nakachi and I support HB1734 and the creation of penalties for the unlawful killing of a shark or ray in state waters.

As a Hawaiian I've been taught the important role sharks play in Hawaiian culture and in the marine ecosystem. Beyond that, I personally interact and take care of my 'aumakua in the ocean. I have a deep affection for my 'aumakua and nothing boils my blood more than seeing one of my family members killed by the ignorance or greed of a malahini. Just this week a immature tagged female tiger shark was killed on Oahu. It is time now to act; never before have I been so concerned for the future of our oceans.

The proof is right before our eyes. Increased shark bites, overfishing, shark finning, el niño, ocean acidification, climate change, coral bleaching, etc. They are all connected and they all have humans as the root of the problem. This bill is such a small step, but it is a needed step in the right direction. Let's start by protecting the chiefs of the sea before its too late, and we'll be one step closer to saving our oceans. Afterall, the oceans are what gave Earth life and they continue to give us oxygen, food, and recreation. Hawaii especially depends on the ocean for tourism, food, and identity.

E lauhoe mai na wa'a, i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina.

Everybody paddle the canoe together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.

We must work together to get to where we want to be. Our poor practices thus far has let a lot of water enter our canoe. With this bill we can bail some water and begin a little forward momentum.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Kaikea Nakachi

omhtestimony

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From: Mauro Cavalletto <mau.cavalletto@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:46 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

**LATE**

Goodevening.

I'm a scuba diver and i would like to say that sharks aren't dangerous for humans. I saw a lot of sharks during my dives and i'm still alive! By the way stop fishing them and stop killing them cause they are the reason of half part of tourism of your country. Killing them will not increase the tourism. Killing them will destroy the ecosystem not only in Hawaii's but around all the world. STOP IT! Thank you.

omhtestimony

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From: Marina Woieni <jtmnature@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:51 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: support HB1734; sharks and rays



Dear friends! I ask you to help save sharks and rays in our ocean by placing a ban on fishing on them. Its not much left... Please, help save our planet healthy, we are all connected! Keeping them life, you save the life of all of us. The Earth will thank you.

Choose life! What goes around comes around!

Regards,  
Marina Kulakova

omhtestimony

---

From: marie thaarup <mariethaarup@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:33 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks And Rays



Ban Shark and Ray fishing!

BR Marie

omhtestimony

---

From: Ken Woods <kenmichael.woods@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:02 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734, Sharks and Rays

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

Please pass this bill to help protect our shark and ray populations. The monetary gain from eco-tourism as well as the environmental benefits to having healthy shark and ray populations are paramount in this decision. We have the power and responsibility to act and to lead the rest of the nation and world by our actions.

Respectfully,

Ken Woods  
(808) 780-6948



omhtestimony

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From: Jana Soli <janaksoli@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:26 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734, Sharks and Rays



To whom it may concern,

Please pass this bill to help protect our shark and ray populations. The monetary gain from eco-tourism as well as the environmental benefits to having healthy shark and ray populations are paramount in this decision. We have the power and responsibility to act and to lead the rest of the nation and world by our actions.

Respectfully,

Jana Soli

omhtestimony

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From: Jacob Lippold <jacob.lippold@gmx.de>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:26 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays



Dear Hawaiian Government,

I herewith ask you to end shark fishing in Hawaii. Shark populations have shrunk massively over the past decades. They are very important to the marine ecosystem as they, as apex predators, they control many fish populations from getting too big. If sharks went extinct, the marine ecosystem would go out of control, damaging the fishing industry and marine tourism. Please save the oceans by saving sharks!

Regards,

Jacob Lippold

omhtestimony

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From: hndrxfan14 <hndrxfan14@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 6:42 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734



Although I'm not a resident of Hawaii, I feel conservation efforts towards sharks are imperative for a multitude of reasons.

As an apex predator on this Earth, humans should use their position to preserve other species. The balance and continued survival of ANY species is predicated on conservation and preservation. When one species is removed from an ecosystem, the remaining species will suffer dire consequences, as each being's survival is contingent upon the other. If humans want to protect the Earth and all her living creatures (humans included), we MUST take a stand and be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

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From: Geraldine Ponce-Rickards <gponcerickards@icloud.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:48 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support for HB1734 Sharks and Rays



To whom it may concern,

I am in support for the ban on fishing sharks and rays in Hawaii.

Thank you,  
Geraldine Ponce-Rickards

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

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From: cameron.cock169@gmail.com  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:17 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734

**LATE**

No Shark Hunting Allowed!!

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

---

From: David Trouville <davidtrouville@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:46 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734; Sharks and rays



Hi,

I'm an Australian who has regularly visited Hawaii after discovering the group of islands a few years ago.

I live near a marine park in Australia which has a wide and diverse range of marine life including sharks, Rays, whales and a plethora of fish species. I considered myself very lucky until I discovered the amazing tropical marine life that Hawaii has. I was immediately envious and I have recommended that all my friends visit.

I hear through some Hawaiian friends that there is a law soon to be passed that will protect Sharks and Rays from illegal fishing. This is brilliant news! It's always great to hear that State and Federal Governments around the world are starting to realise the value in protecting both flora and fauna.

Hawaii is a beautiful place and I commend you for passing this bill that will keep the Hawaiian waters as pristine and diverse as possible. I greatly look forward to my next visit.

Regards,

David

Sent from iPhone.

omhtestimony

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From: Brianne Rico <brianneleerico@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:50 PM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks And Rays

**LATE**

Aloha,

I am submitting this email from Tucson, Arizona in SUPPORT of HB1734 to ban the fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. I was born in Kalihi on Oahu and raised in Keaau on the Big Island and grew up with a deep admiration and respect of these creatures and strongly feel that they should be protected...especially since their existence is so vital to the ocean's ecosystem.

Though I now reside in Arizona, I fly back to Honolulu once a month to partake in various eco-tourism activities which include pelagic dives off Oahu's north shore. I do not visit alone, I often bring in friends and family from other states that also participate in these activities and they've enjoyed it so much...they've also been making it a point to keep returning. Needless to say, without sharks and rays, these pelagic dives would not exist. So I'm sure it's plain to see that banning the fishing of sharks and rays hold benefits both on a local financial level as well as a ecological planetary level.

Please, I urge you, please pass HB1734 to ban the fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii...mahalo nui loa.

Brianne Lee Rico  
808.228.9810  
[brianneleerico@gmail.com](mailto:brianneleerico@gmail.com)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:21 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** fernrosenstiel@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fern Rosenstiel | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: I strongly support the measure and the protection of marine keystone predators. The importance of healthy populations of sharks and rays in the functioning of marine ecosystems has been well established and I humbly ask that the representatives move this bill forward and into law. Mahalo!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:54 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** kaiulani@kalo.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ka'iulani Pahi'o | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:00 AM  
**To:** omhtestimony  
**Cc:** mpahukoa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1734 on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1734**

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for OMH on Feb 10, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Ann Pahukoa | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

**Comments:**

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**LATE**

February 10, 2016

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian and resident of the State of Hawai'i, I am in full support of protecting sharks and rays from being purposefully killed and wasted.

These beautiful creatures have graced the waters of these islands and this earth for millions of years and deserve our protection along with utmost respect. Anything less is a desecration towards species that have outlived our very own existence.

In Hawaiian culture we believe the spirits of our ancestors live on through animals that range from the graceful *māno* (shark), to the witty *pū'eo* (owl), to the small yet unassuming *mo'o* (gecko). These "guardians" are called "*'aumākua*". They appear to us in times of need.

The three meter Tiger shark "Roxanne", who recently washed ashore on 'O'ahu's North Shore, was perhaps an *'aumākua* of Hawai'i. A reminder to all of us in a time of need that the ocean which caresses our islands also needs our help in keeping it's waters safe from such disrespectful, disgusting actions.

By protecting these keepers of the sea we ensure a healthy ecosystem and sustainable lifestyle for the entire food chain, including ourselves. While the population of sharks has plummeted in the last century, we must do the best we can to restore natural order to this disruption in the marine ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Ku'ulei Gunderson  
Waimānalo, 'O'ahu.

omhtestimony

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From: Zoe Lowther <zoestarflower@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:58 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 Sharks & Rays & Support SB2642

**LATE**

Hi! My name is Zoë Lowther. I'm a 16 year old student with a passion for ocean conservation. The numerous species of sharks and rays are so incredible vital to the beautiful ecosystem and setting of Hawaii. These fish are just as important as the many fish protected under Hawaiian law. There is no purpose in killing them; in fact it's inhumane to continuously decrease the numbers of these amazing creatures.

Please understand the urgency of this email and consider this decision; as every shark counts.  
The oceans would appreciate and thrive on your decision to save these big fish.

Thank you so much!  
Zoë Lowther

Sent from my iPhone

From: Water Inspired <waterinspired@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:40 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 Sharks & Rays & Support SB2642

**LATE**

Hello I am a Hawaii resident, I am also a shark biologist, ethnologist, and an active marine researcher looking at specifics on behavior and population in Hawaii.

I am in full support of the proposition to ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. Due to observed declines in shark and Ray populations and the correlating decline and the abundance & health of fish stock population as well as coral health.

Please call me I would be happy to provide more information on research and data as well as testify publicly.

Mahalo,  
Ocean Ramsey

[Waterinspired.Org](http://Waterinspired.Org)  
[Oneoceandiving.com](http://Oneoceandiving.com)

Lead Conservationist, Biologist, Photographer, & Dive safety officer

PADI MSDT 197766  
EFR 1st Aid & CPR instructor  
DAN 02 & AED instructor  
808-722-0969

[www.waterinspired.com](http://www.waterinspired.com)  
[www.oceanramsey.com](http://www.oceanramsey.com)  
[www.oneoceandiving.com](http://www.oneoceandiving.com)

Instagram: oceanicramsey  
Facebook ocean ramsey  
Twitter: oceanicramsey

"In the end people will only protect what they love, and only love what they understand . . ." Sengalese environmentalist Baba Dioum

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." – Mother Teresa

omhtestimony

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From: Gina G Lawless <808glawless@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:43 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Cc: Stephanie Lawless  
Subject: SUPPORT HB174; sharks and rays



I support HB1734, as I believe that sharks and rays should be protected and the only way to enforce protection is through laws that will reprimand the actions of those who do injustices to these species. As sharks and rays decimate from the ocean we will all suffer adverse effects. I want Hawai'i to be a leading actor in the global effort to reduce and stop the gross misuse, abuse and killing of this specie.

Live with Aloha,

Gina Lawless

808-283-2127  
778-266-2127

omhtestimony

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From: Siena <schaar@hawaii.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:30 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

**LATE**

I support the bill to help save and protect Sharks and Rays in the state of Hawaii because sharks are vitally important to the health of our oceans. Without sharks, other populations will be thrown off balance and will likely suffer the same fate.

We have the power right now to take a step in the right direction for shark and Ray conservation in this state before it is too late. With the growing positive stigma surrounding and respecting sharks, this is the next step for securing their protection.

Thank you for your time,

Siena I. Schaar

omhtestimony

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From: Artur Akopyan <arturone10@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:47 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734; Sharks and Rays



[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



omhtestimony

---

From: Cameron Grant <camtgrant@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:59 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734; Sharks and Rays

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm in full support of the bill that helps save sharks and rays. Sharks maintain balance and growth throughout the ocean including the coastal waters of the Hawaiian Islands. Ocean and marine ecosystems strongly rely on the presence of shark species and their diminishing numbers (overfishing/finning) are having drastic impact on sustainability/health of our waters. As a community we need to do everything in our power to spread both knowledge and awareness of this matter before populations decrease and become irreversible.

The importance of this matter stretches far beyond self. We all depend on the health of our ocean and this bill will not only help regulate our waters but educate individuals in importance of shark conservation.

Very Respectfully,

Cameron Grant

omhtestimony

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From: emilysilge <emilysilge@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:28 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: SUPPORT H1734; SHARKS AND RAYS



Aloha nui loa!

To whoever this email reaches, I hope that my words can help add to the support of sharks and rays. I've been an avid freediver/conservationist for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed the company and have shared the water with sharks and rays on countless adventures and never have I had a bad experience. The ocean needs these creatures in order to survive!! Sharks are what keep the fish population under control and they make sure that the ecosystem flows smoothly by controlling the sick and dying.

They are highly intelligent fish and rays are sharks too, which means they are equally important. It is VITAL that sharks and rays not be hunted FOR NO REASON! They can't be eaten, so they can't support families other communities and there's no market for shark/ray meat. There's NO POINT IN killing off ancient creatures who were here before us!!!!!!

Please, consider the fact that the ocean would be destroyed without the lives of sharks and rays and the fact that sharks/rays are sacred to Hawaii. We need the sharks!!!!

Mahalo nui for taking the time to read this. We will never give up supporting these amazing creatures!!!! They were here first, why should have to fear living their lives. Humans have destroyed most of the natural world already. Let's do something great and save creatures who we would be lost without!

-Emily Silge  
Waianae, Hawaii  
808-726-7136

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

omhtestimony

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From: Daniel Perez <karrenger@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:03 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 shark and rays support SB2642

**LATE**

Sharks and rays are being purposefully wasted and killed every day. It's an extremely dangerous market and it is going to damage our oceans and our world today. Some of the most Beautiful animals of this planet are going to be endangered soon and we all need to work together to stop it.

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

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From: Martina Delacovias <mattie287@aol.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:42 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 Sharks & Rays & Support SB2642

**LATE**

Please make the killing of sharks and rays illegal. It serves no health purpose for man kind and therefore is not necessary for our consumption.

They only contribute to the greed of man, which causes problems on a global scale!

No one will win the battle, least of all humans... we'll pay the price when the oceans lose their apex predator because we earned a little money in the process... the world will become an even uglier place without them!

PLEASE end the unnecessary killing NOW. Use your authority for good! Save the planet.

omhtestimony

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From: Henry Wetton <henrywetton2014@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:00 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734, sharks and Rays

**LATE**

Please support the conservation of the endangered sharks and rays that live in the waters around you, they need your help! I'm a passionate diver and love to witness sharks, rays and other fish in their natural state. They all play an essential part in the beautiful Ecosystem that is the Pacific Ocean. I hope you make the right choice.

Regards,

Henry.

omhtestimony

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From: Lei Kamahale-Beeck <lkamahale@icloud.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:41 AM  
To: omhtestimony; WLA Testimony  
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734 & SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

**LATE**

Aloha, I am in support of the ban of harm, capture, and killings of sharks and rays in Hawaii and in support of penalties for being caught doing so. As a native to the islands, I believe these creatures deserve respect and carry lots of mana, spiritual meaning, and sheer splendor. Spirituality aside, the Eco-structure of our oceans depend on a healthy shark population, as they are the apex predators and regulators of the sea. Sharks hunt the weak, dying, or sick fish, leaving healthy ones to reproduce and keep our oceans thriving. Over-fishing, warmer waters, and more people in the water than ever before has brought on more encounters this past year. All these factors are from human influence. Some feel that hunting or killing sharks will reduce the amount of encounters, but this will only devastate the ocean's natural balance and nature's intent. I'd like to see consequences for those who harm sharks, rays (and all nature, for that matter), for reasons sensitive to both Hawaiian culture, and preservation/conservation efforts.

Mahalo,  
Leiha'aheo Kamahale-Beeck

Sent from my iPhone

omhtestimony

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From: João Paulo <jpgasparian@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:31 AM  
To: wla@capitol.hawaii.gov; omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 Sharks and Rays

**LATE**

Help and save these animals !!

Thanks  
João Paulo Gasparian

Enviado do meu iPhone

From: Kayleigh Burns <kayleigh.burns0920@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:51 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734, sharks and rays

**LATE**

Aloha,

Please pass this bill to give protection to our Hawaiian sharks and rays. Sharks are the white blood cells of the ocean by killing the dead and dying leaving only the strong to survive. More sharks in our waters means more fish. More fish will bring more abundance in food and profit for our state ultimately. Sharks are necessary for a healthy ocean. Please pass this bill for Protection on these species.

**Best wishes,**

**Kayleigh Burns**  
**Water Inspired Conservationist**  
**PADI Divemaster**  
**Honolulu Scuba Company**  
**Store: (808) 536-8448**  
**Mobile: (215) 208-5432**  
**IG: @mermaid\_kayleigh**  
**FB: Kayleigh Nicole Burns**



omhtestimony

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From: Jennifer Lapinsky <jennifernicole.120@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:40 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734 Sharks & Rays and Support SB2642

**LATE**

I've always been impressed with Hawaii's dedication to wildlife and ecosystem preservation. The intentional killing and wasting of sharks and rays has an undeniable negative effect on the world's oceans. I am writing to urge you to help protect these species from unnecessary harm.

Thanks,

Jennifer Lapinsky  
Delaware

omhtestimony

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From: stephanieklawless@gmail.com  
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:32 AM  
To: omhtestimony  
Subject: Support HB1734: sharks and rays



I support HB1734, as I believe that sharks and rays should be protected and the only way to enforce protection is through laws that will reprimand the actions of those who do injustices to this species. As shark and rays decimate from the ocean we will suffer adverse effects. I want Hawai'i to be a leading actor in the global effort to reduce the gross misuse, abuse and killing of this species.

Mahalo,  
Stephanie Lawless  
7788872082  
Lahaina, Hawai'i